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Committees working to make their mark

Groups encourage all to get involved, make time at Balad positive

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

With the recent changeover from AEF 9/10 to AEF 1/2, all of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's committees have new members and leadership.

The Panther's Airman Advisory Council, Red Tail 56, Top 3 and Company Grade Officers Council have elected new executive committee members and are starting to focus on what they want to accomplish during their stay in Balad.

The PAAC, which consists of Airmen in grades E-1 to E-4, are working on a distribution plan to strategically place water around the camp and make it readily accessible to all personnel. Their group meets Wednesdays at 5:05 p.m. in the Tuskegee Town Chapel.

"The main purpose of our organization is to boost morale around T-Town and be a voice for the Airmen here at Balad," said Senior Airman Lisa Tomlinson, 332nd AEW chaplain office, and PAAC president, who is deployed from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. "I truly believe that if we are happy with ourselves and each other, we will work harder to complete the mission."

Red Tail 56, which is made up of Airman in grades E-5 and 6, have recently outgrown their old digs and have moved from the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group conference room to the Town Hall. They meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

"I would like to see every staff sergeant and tech. sergeant become members of the council," said Tech. Sgt. Dennis McJunkin,



332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and Red Tail 56 president, who is deployed from the Ohio National Guard. "The command section and chief's council back the 56 with tremendous support, so whatever we can dream, we can make happen."

The Top 3 includes senior non-commissioned officers in the grades of E-7 through E-9. This highly experienced group meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Town Hall

"The Top 3 association is the perfect forum for senior NCO's to come together collectively to exchange ideas and establish a network system to bring about positive change on Balad," said Master Sgt. Dean Hardin, 332nd ECES, and Top 3 president, who is deployed from McGuire AFB, N.J. "Together we can build a solid foundation for future AEF rotations, making Balad the

best location in the AOR."

Another group committed to service and esprit de corps is the CGOC, which meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the 332nd EMSG conference room. The CGOC is made up of officers in the grades of O-1 through O-3.

"The purpose of the CGOC is to provide service for the betterment of Balad Air Base, promote the development of CGOs, provide a forum for communication between CGOs and senior leadership, and promote esprit de corps," said 1st Lt. Roy Robertson, 332nd AEW administration office, and CGOC president, who is deployed from Maxwell AFB, Ala. "During our tour, we would like to help foster good relations with the local community, provide services to improve the lives of current residents, and leave a lasting legacy from which future residents will benefit."

Process smoothed for departing passengers

Capt. Robert Neal 332nd ELRS

Starting today all passengers departing Balad will be routed though the Army's A-2 Processing Center, located in Building 5011.

Previously all Air Force passengers were processed through the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, while the Army processed everyone else. Now by processing everyone through A-2, dual routing has been eliminated and all travel requirements can be done in one location.

The new process begins with travelers signing up at A-2 for a military airlift. This can be done up to 14 days in advance.

The evening before traveling, passengers can call A-2 at 538-4498 for up-to-date flight information and reporting times.

Standard reporting time is three hours prior to aircraft arrival.

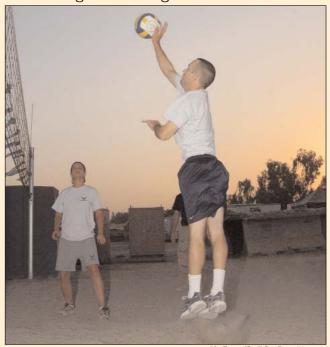
After KBR processes passengers for a mission, they will bring a manifest, disk and copies of the personnel supporting contingency operations redeployment checklist for Air Force passengers to a representative in the Air Terminal Operations Center no later than an hour and a half prior to aircraft arrival.

A passenger representative will printout a manifest for the flight and give it to KBR.

Once the ATOC is notified by the aircrew to bring passengers out to the aircraft, ATOC will contact KBR for passenger delivery. They will then drive all passengers to the aircraft complete with a manifest.

What was once a convoluted process has now been streamlined and should make travel out of Balad easier.

Let the games begin



Air Force/Staff Sqt Ryan Hansen

Senior Airman Jeremiah Stallcup, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, spikes the ball as teammate Airman 1st Class Kristine Knudson watches on. The 332nd ECS defeated the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing 15-12 and 15-10 Sept. 24, in a pre-season matchup. The regular intramural season begins today.

Chief impressed with Balad's mission, people

Quality of life improves with each visit to AOR

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

The highest-ranking enlisted person in 9th Air Force and United States Central Command Air Forces visited Balad Sept. 21 and 22 and came away impressed with the base, its mission and its people.

Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, 9th AF and CENTAF command chief, met with Right Start attendees, chief's group, first sergeants, Red Tail 56 and the Panther's Airman Advisory Council during his visit.

"Every time I come to Balad I cannot believe the amount of changes being made to this place," Chief Foran said to a group of recent arrivals at Right Start. "The quality of life changes are impressive."

In addition to his duties as command



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, 9th Air Force and United States Central Command Air Forces command chief, talks with newcomers at Right Start Sept. 22.

chief for 9th AF, Chief Foran is responsible for a 20-nation area stretching from Kenya in eastern Africa, southward to the Seychelles Islands and across the Arabian Peninsula and Southwest Asia to Pakistan.

"(The 9th AF and CENTAF commander) wants me to spend about 65 percent of my time in the AOR," Chief Foran said. "I'm here every single month to make sure our people are getting the tools they need to get the job done."

The chief touched on uniform standards and talked about how non-commissioned officers play a key role not only in their every day jobs, but also in mentoring young Airmen when he met with Red Tail 56.

"Nothing moves in the Air Force without you," Chief Foran said. "You play a key role in the lives of young Airmen and I challenge you to make a difference."

Chief Foran concluded his visit by meeting with the PAAC and talked to them about their chance to be part of history.

"I cannot stress to you how important your job is," the chief said. "Stay focused on the task at hand and always remember the mission."

Perspective is key to positive tour

1st. Lt. Phylis Black 332nd ECS

How long have you been here? How long is your tour? What do you do? What do you think of our little slice of Eden? I routinely use these questions as ice breaker, but I've noticed the answers reveal how the people around me cope with these conditions. Many of them challenge and improve my perspective.

I'd been here only a week (and was still in the post-arrival slump) when we happened to eat lunch with an Army specialist who regaled us with tales of his experiences in the six months since he'd arrived. He was an activated Reservist.

When his unit first arrived, they were homeless. There were no tents erected for them yet, so they bunked in a munitions storage barn with faulty wiring just outside of Fallujah, and the wiring set the place on fire. After that, many of them not only had no home, but no clothes.

The specialist and his unit spent the first four months here running convoys in armored Humvees with no air conditioning. They routinely take mortar and small arms fire.

As he talked, I thought about all the negative experiences he'd had and what he had to be upset about. He'd been called upon to leave his job, his home and his loved ones for a year. He'd arrived in this strange country to find himself and his unit homeless. He lived in makeshift housing until it burned down. His job was dangerous and physically miserable. Six more months of the same awaited him.

But throughout the conversation, I was impressed by his attitude. His stories were matter of fact, and even amusing. He didn't complain once. Instead of whining about being homeless, he told how the conflagration had launched many of the munitions but added, "No one was hurt." He could have complained about how nasty his job was, and how thankless, but he bragged about how his unit had already logged more convoys

than any other unit, and hadn't lost a soldier yet.

It's easy to get sucked into thinking about what you don't have and can't do, but it's counter-productive. Focus on the donut and not the hole.

Your attitude determines how you experience the world. You can spend your time here focused on what you don't have and make everyone around you miserable, then leave here bitter and angry. Alternately, you can accept your situation and make the most of it, do your duty with pride, apply yourself to whatever job you've been assigned to do then go home knowing you've accomplished something worthwhile. The choice is yours.

Making sense of 'gray areas'

If you have to ask, you already know answer

Staff Sgt. Kathy Myles

421st EFS

Integrity first.
Excellence in all we do.
Service before self.

These are the Air Force Core Values, but some of us still don't truly understand what they mean.

At the present point and time, we all find ourselves griping and complaining about the new physical training uniform standards. It is definitely heard by all, but what is the real purpose of this standard? There are several reasons we ourselves can come up with. However that may not be the real purpose for these standards.

Recently I attended a meeting where Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, command chief for both 9th Air Force and United States Central Command, spoke on this very subject. He talked about "Professionalism. Don't take it personal." If you see it, address it. However, the individual also has a responsibility to correct it.

There are still a lot of 'gray areas' with these standards, which are found in any law and/or regulation, but each and every one of us are responsible to ensure that the standard of right is enforced. Just because you bought it at the local Post/Base Exchange, does not make it appropriate.

We must embrace the concept of 'Doing what is right even when no one is looking.'

One of the first core values is integrity. You may have that slamming black tank top that shows everything, but is it appropriate?

If you have to think about it, then don't do it. Stick to the basics.

It is not just the job of Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, to enforce standards, but each and every individual here.

The bottom line is, we are in a war-zone and to ensure your safety, especially for females, we must ensure that our dress is not construed and is appropriate. If you don't have the appropriate physical training uniform, your desert camouflaged uniform is more than acceptable.

We never think of this as a privilege to wear civilian clothes in a war-time environment. As you know, privileges can be taken away if you take them for granted.

The deadline for mailing absentee ballots for this year's elections is Oct. 15. Airmen here who have requested an absentee

ballot from their state but haven't received it can also use an SF 86, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot. To find out more about voting in this year's elections, go to www.fvap.gov or contact your unit voting assistance officer listed below.

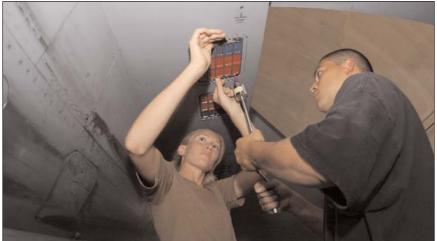
<u>Unit</u>	Voting Assistance Officer	Phone
Installation Voting (Officer Maj. Terri Bailey	x1359
332nd AEW	Maj. Jeffrey Sattler	x1148
	Capt. Eileen Kirkland	x1381
	MSgt. Kimberly Hall	x1382
	SSgt. Marc Barnes	x1164
332nd EOG	Capt. Teresa Quick	x1080
	Capt. Todd Knight	x1194
332nd EOSS	MSgt. Michael Bardsley	x1491
64th ERQS	MSgt. Terry Webb	x1693
46th ERS	Capt. Ian Pharris	x1716
332nd EACS	2nd Lt. Bryan Zollinger	x1453
SMERF	Mr. Tim Walsh	x1656
332nd EMDG 1st S	Sgt. MSgt. Sean Gauge	
332nd EMDG	Maj. Terri Bailey	x1359
	Capt. Tammy Karamarinov	x6228
	Capt. Tyler Watson	x1709
	MSgt. Annette Whitenack	x1778
	TSgt. Russell Flowers	x6230
332nd EMDG CGC	Os Capt. Wayne Hodson	x4504
732nd EMSG	2nd Lt. William Crutchfield	x2147
PAAC	SrA. Amy Gallagher	x1361
Red Tail 56	SSgt. Joycelyn Walker	x1361



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

F-16 Fighting Falcon

A lot goes into putting an F-16C Fighting Falcon in the air over the area of responsibility. The hard working members of the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are key players in doing just that.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

(Left) Airman 1st Class Eldon Arnaud, 332nd EAMXS, conducts a preflight inspection on an F-16C. (Above) Senior Airman Heriberto De Jesus, right, and Airman 1st Class Sonya Neuman, 332nd EAMXS, load a flare canister on an F-16C Fighting Falcon.



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

Crew chiefs from the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron conduct pre-flight inspections on a F-16C recently at Balad Air Base.

Keep on Truckin'

That's the mission for Airmen of the 732nd ELRS in Mosul

Staff Sgt. Marc Barnes

332nd AEW/PA

MOSUL, Iraq – The hours are long, and their jobs are dangerous, but Airmen assigned the task of keeping supply lines running on the roads of northern Iraq are determined to keep on trucking.

That's because they realize the importance of what they do, according to Capt. Harley Smith, commander of more than 140 Airmen assigned to Detachment 1 of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron here.

"Our main mission is to provide gunship convoy escorts for sustainment trucks as far south as (Tikrit, Iraq)," said Capt. Smith. "That's important because no military person or government contractor in the northern part of Iraq would have food to eat, water to drink, or fuel for their vehicles if we didn't do what we do."

But what they do comes with risks that are obvious to every Airman during each convoy mission, according to Capt. Smith.

Airman 1st Class Michael Ross faces the risks several times each week as he travels the roads of northern Iraq, manning a 50-caliber machine gun while standing in a steel box on the back of one of the unit's armorplated, five-ton "gun trucks." As a heavy

gunner, he rides in the last truck of the convoy, scanning the horizon for would-be attackers. He said that despite the danger, he loves his job.

"How many people in the Air Force can say they've done what we're doing? We ride (across Iraq) in 'up-armored' five-ton gun trucks, manning heavy weapons," he said. "Before I joined the Air Force, I hoped I'd get to do something like this."

The job Airman Ross and other vehicle operators are doing is a big contrast to what they do at home, according to Capt. Smith.

"The difference is in the intensity of the workload and the fact that daily, it's very dangerous out there," the captain explained. "At a home station (logistics readiness squadron), you might see a single vehicle dispatched to do a single taxi run for a single customer. Here, we never move as a 'single.' Everything here is a convoy; everything is mutual support for one another.

"The amount of preparation and planning that goes into a convoy is considerably greater over here than it is back home, due to the security situation and the importance of our mission," he said. "We put Airmen in harm's way every day."

That's a fact the Airmen assigned to the unit know all too well. The unit is still mourning the loss of Airman 1st Class Carl

Anderson Jr., who died after a roadside bomb attack during a convoy escort mission in northern Iraq Aug. 29.

Capt. Smith said Airman Anderson's death deeply affected everyone in the unit.

"It's difficult to deal with the death of a team member and friend," Capt. Smith said. "After Airman Anderson's death, some Airmen were apprehensive while others wanted retribution; but as a team, we were able to re-focus on our mission, get back out on the road and perform professionally."

Even with the daily dangers they face while mourning the loss of a friend, the unit's Airmen keep convoys moving in northern Iraq. Airman Ross said he uses the tension he feels before every mission to help him focus on his responsibilities, to both the mission and his team.

"We treat every mission as if it's the first," he said. "That helps us stay focused. If something happens, we know what to do."



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Marc Barne

Airman 1st Class Adam Vogan, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Detachment 1, dons personal protective equipment prior to a convoy escort mission here Sept. 22.

Defense briefs

Air Force claims academy golf tourney

DALLAS – The Air Force Academy golf team extended its winning streak to 10 on Sunday and Monday at the annual Service Academy Golf Classic, as the Falcons finished four strokes ahead of Army with a three-round total of 1,107.

Navy was third in the team standings (1,132), while Air Force sophomore Ben Jackman, shooting a 3-over-par 219 for the tournament, earned comedalist honors along with the Army's Scott Manley, who was awarded the individual trophy based on his performance in the final round.

Sun outage affects AFN, TV, radio

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – American Forces Network users may experience brief programming interruptions until Oct. 12, as the fall "sun outage" period occurs.

These outages affect all satellite communications, including the AFN radio and television services.

The effect of sun outages on satellite-delivered programming received by the center will be minimal, because alternate satellite feeds of incoming programming can be used to avoid sun outages.

Three-star visit



Air Force/Staff Sgt Paul Ocampo

Maj. Gen. Lance L. Smith, United States Central Command deputy commander, listens as Lt. Col. Steve Robinson, 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron commander, explains the intricate role the squadron plays in securing and maintaining the area of responsibility as Capt. Paul Hutchinson, 332nd EACS, looks on. General Smith visited Balad Sept. 24 and 25.

Powell says U.S. is committed to full Iraqi elections

Samatha Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of State Colin Powell told Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday," that Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi and the U.S. are committed to full, free Iraqi elections.

"I think the American people want to see what we want to see, and that is for the Iraqi people to have a free, open, fair election, for their forces to be built up for our reconstruction money to be used well and for Iraqi security forces to take over so we start bringing our troops home," Powell said.

He pointed out that Allawi had said during his Washington visit last week that there has been a great deal of progress made. Powell said that the Iraqis are moving forward, opening schools and holding municipal elections. But they're fighting a tough insurgency, an insurgency that must be defeated.

A National Intelligence Estimate released in late July, in Powell's words, set forth a sober assessment of potential alternative outcomes for the situation in Iraq, ranging from tenuous stability to civil war.

"(The estimates) always tend to focus on sort of the worst case so that policy makers can think about worse cases responses." he said. "But I think there are many alternatives into the future and the best alternative ... is to continue fighting this insurgency.

"And we cannot allow them to succeed. If there is one thing we all agree on, the international community agrees on, is that these

thugs and murders cannot be allowed to succeed. So there are some tough days ahead. There's tough fighting ahead."

Powell defended President Bush's comment made earlier in the week that the NIE's assessment was a guess, saying that he had meant "estimate." He said an NIE provides potential courses of action to be taken into consideration to influence events. He emphasized that none of those courses is simply followed.

Powell said there is talk of a regional summit, to include Iraq's neighbors and the G-8 group of countries to work on building support for Iraq's January elections. The idea was Allawi's, he said, dismissing any implication of ties to the U.S. presidential election.

Discussion of such meetings would entail why it is in the best interest of Iraq's neighbors for there to be a stable, non-threatening Iraq, Powell said. Also, discussion would focus on how the industrialized community, represented by the G-8 countries, can assist in creating a stable Iraq.

However, Powell said, the first step to creating that stability is full elections.

"I think it has to be throughout the country. We don't need a 100 percent turnout of every single citizen," he said. "But I think it has to be seen as a comprehensive, full, free and fair election in order to get the kind of credibility we want it to have."

Powell admitted there the days ahead will be rough, but says in the end, the Iraqis will get to choose their own leaders and write and ratify their own constitution. Then, having built up the Iraqi forces, American troops can begin to withdraw.



"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions at Balad Air Base. Submit questions to public.health @BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Have you seen all those signs around that say non-potable water, and wonder what they mean?

Potable is a term used to indicate what the water can be used for. Water, regardless of its source, must be treated before it can be used.

The water used on most deployed military installations comes from a number of sources including surface water (rivers and canals) and wells. The water is processed through a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) to remove impurities and harmful chemicals. After treatment, specialized military water laboratories do extensive testing on the water to ensure the water meets published international water standards.

The vehicles used to transport water also have to meet specific standards in order to carry water. Water labeled as potable is considered fully consumable and may be used for anything. Non-potable water is NOT intended for consumption (to include brushing your teeth), but can be used for hand-washing, laundering, showering, vehicle washing, etc.

Please follow the posted signs and do not consume or brush your teeth with water from the latrine trailers. If you have any further questions, please feel to contact the bioenvironmental engineering office at 458-1763.

Meet your neighbor



Staff Sqt. Scott Guinn

Home station: Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Medical Squadron

Family: Wife, Kalle; mother, Jan; brother, Jeff; and nephew, "Ty-Pey."

Boy"

Hobbies: Snowboarding and golf

How do I contribute to the mission? I maintain and promote health and well being of AF personnel through occupational and environmental health hazard assessment and control.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Visiting

different work centers here that we don't have at Peterson.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? Chipotle Burritos

Stay safe – Wear reflective belts at night





Have you noticed the amount of traffic around Balad? We have a variety of vehicles on our roads from tractor trailers to busses to bicycles. One trip down Pennsylvania Avenue and you will quickly see that Balad's streets are very busy both day and night.

If you plan on walking outside of Tuskegee Town after dark, you are highly recommended to wear a reflective belt. If you do not have a reflective belt, contact your unit safety representative to get one.

Wear the belt so that it is visible all the way around you, not just from the front or rear. In addition to the reflective belt, it is a good idea to have a flashlight.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other safety matter, contact the ground safety office at 458-1204.

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays: 8 a.m. • Religious Education -T-Town Chapel

9 a.m. • Contemporary Worship -

T-Town Chapel

10:30 a.m. • Traditional - Hospital 2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital 3 p.m. • Devotional – CSAR Theatre

5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship -T-Town Chapel

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 8:45 a.m. • Purpose Driven Life Study – CASF

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers -T-Town Chapel

9 p.m. • Prayer - T-Town Chapel

1:30 p.m. • Prayer - Provider Chapel

Church of Christ

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Worship - 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Lutheran

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel 2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent Roman Catholic Sundays:

10:30 a.m. • Mass - T-Town Chapel

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass - CASF

6 p.m. • Reconciliation - Hospital 6:30 p.m. • Mass - Hospital

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments - T-Town

Chapel

8 p.m. • Sunday School - T-Town Chapel

7 p.m. • Study Group – T-Town Chapel

Jewish

Fridays:

6:30 p.m. • Prayer - Eden Chapel (Bldg. 4148)

Orthodox

Sundays: 11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task

Force Tent

Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers - 185th Task Force

Know what this is?



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an email at redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil. The first person who sends in the correct answer wins a prize and will get their name printed in the Red Tail Flyer. Congratulations to Senior Airman Eric Edwards, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, for identifying last week's closeup of a fire extinguisher.

stainer Movie Schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today

3 p.m. - Mr. 3000

6 p.m. - The Village

9 p.m. - Mr. 3000

Saturday

3 p.m. - Ella

Enchanted 6 p.m. - Manchurian

Candidate

9 p.m. - Sky

Captain and the World of Tomorrow

Sunday 3 p.m. - Sky Captain and the

World of Tomorrow 6 p.m. - Mr. 3000

9 p.m. - The Village

Monday

3 p.m. - Eurotrip

6 p.m. - Envv

9 p.m. - Van Helsing

Tuesday

World of Tomorrow

9 p.m. - Eurotrip

3 p.m. - Mr. 3000 6 p.m. - Sky Captain and the

6 p.m. - Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

9 p.m. - Mr. 3000

Wednesday

Captain and the

World of Tomorrow 6 p.m. - Manchurian

9 p.m. - The Village

3 p.m. - Van Helsing

3 p.m. - Sky

Candidate

Thursday



332nd Air Expeditionary Wing **Editorial Staff**

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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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